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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for

1959

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	112,315 acres
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Rateable Value 1/4/59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£239,752
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£997 17s. 11d.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,718
Estimated mid-year Home Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,500
Census Population 1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,522

The district, which is agricultural in character, extends from the parish of Gamlingay in the West to Carlton parish in the East, a distance of some 30 miles, and has a common boundary with parts of the counties of Huntingdon, Bedford, Hertford, Essex and Suffolk.

It is favourable to arable farming which varies with the location, from the market gardening district of the lower greensand outcrop in the North West to the chalk marls around Melbourn and Meldreth which supports fruit growing, to corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the South and East.

Industries in the area are mostly connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions however; Sawston has industries of a divergent nature and comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in leather and paper manufacture. There is every indication that this parish will become urbanised as fresh industries are established.

Birth Rate	18.1
(Corrected)	20.3
Death Rate	12.0
(Corrected)	9.6
Infant Mortality Rate	9.8

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor C. Hagger
Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. Pepper

Councillors:

Andrews, H. B.	May, S. W. H.
Barnes, A.	Morley, E. W.
Binney, R. C. C. J.	Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Bowen, Mrs. G.	Nield, R. H.
Bowers, C. H.	Noble, J. W.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.	Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Chambers, F.	Randall, P., J.P.
Chamberlain, J. J.	Rogers, Mrs. H.
Dyball, E. F.	Saggers, A. C.
Fordham, G. R. B., J.P.	Taylor, S. A., J.P.
Gray, Miss L. M.	Thomson, D. W.
Greenwood, C. O.	Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Horsford, F. W.	Webb, J. D.
Jackson, R. C.	Wiseman, E. J.
Lay, J. H., M.B.E., M.C.	
Malthouse, H. F.	

STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health:</i>	J. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector:</i>	R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. Cocks, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. Allston, M.R.S.H. (from April)
<i>Clerk:</i>	Mrs. N. E. Matthews

To the Chairman and Members
of the
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1959 prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/60, dated 8th January, 1960, and the first since I took up my appointment as Medical Officer of Health on the 1st April, 1959. The ease with which I was able to assume office and take up my responsibilities is a tribute to my predecessor, Dr. P. A. Tyser, and the organisation he had developed during the eight years he held this appointment.

Vital Statistics

There was again an increase in population although only a nominal one, from 28,460 to 28,500. The birth rate rose very slightly from 18.0 to 18.1 as also did the death rate from 11.4 to 12.0, but there was a dramatic fall in the infant mortality rate from 19.5 to 9.8. Although it is extremely unlikely that this exceptionally low rate will be maintained in future years, it is to be expected that the usual pattern of the local infant mortality rate being below the national figure, at present 22.0, would continue.

Infectious Diseases

There was a general increase in the incidence of zymotic diseases in the main caused by the epidemic of measles which continued unabated through the first three quarters of the year. The number of cases notified rose from 370 to 859—the highest in ten years—and, while no fatalities occurred there was a high incidence of complications, mainly of a respiratory nature.

A considerable reduction in the number of cases of food poisoning was noted and it is of interest to report that in one family outbreak a pet dog and domestic poultry were found to be carrying the food poisoning organism.

Sanitary Circumstances

Substantial advances were made in improving the sanitary circumstances of the area.

Stage II of the Gamlingay sewerage scheme proceeded satisfactorily, tenders were invited for the sewerage of Meldreth, and a fortnightly refuse collection was instituted throughout the district.

There was, however, a serious reduction in the services provided by the public health department caused by an increasing demand, coupled with staffing difficulties. For over a third of the year, the department was without an additional inspector and for about six weeks no clerical help.

As a result of these difficulties the 100% meat inspection had to be abandoned in October and, averaged over the whole year, only 93% of the animals slaughtered were inspected. The significance of this can be appreciated when one notes the percentage of animals inspected where whole or part of the carcass was condemned. The inspectors were able to pay only 111 visits to the 330 food shops in the area and no systematic milk sampling for bacteriological examination was carried out. Although it was possible to answer all calls on the department, it was necessary to curtail follow up visits and little time was available for the vital job of education. A public health department which devotes itself solely to the administration of its statutory duties and does not carry out health education is like a policeman who believes his sole purpose is to catch law-breakers.

With the steadily increasing demand of meat inspection, the need for surveys with regard to water supply and sewerage connections, no immediate solution of the department's difficulties can be seen.

There are still 25 families living in hutments—a reduction of two from the previous year—and it would seem that we will soon be approaching the hard core of families where great difficulty will be found in rehousing them. A solution to this problem could be for each village to rehouse at least one of the more difficult families so that the social services and the community generally can give the support and education necessary to enable the family—or if not the parents at least the children—to become useful and accepted members of society.

At all costs we must avoid the concentration of difficult families into slum communities which not only are a permanent irritation to the parish where they are situated but are also a breeding ground for antisocial behaviour and delinquency.

I wish to thank Mr. Hoyle and his staff for their loyalty and hard work during the year. They deserve the highest possible praise for their efforts under great difficulties.

I am grateful also to the Chairman and members of the Council for their support and encouragement during my first year of office.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES DRUMMOND.

December, 1960.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate	..	..	264	233	497
Illegitimate	..	..	10	8	18
Totals	..	..	274	241	515
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	18.1
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.12)	..	..	..	..	20.3
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	16.5
STILL BIRTHS			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	2	—	2
Totals	..	..	3	1	4
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	7.7
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	20.7
DEATHS			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
		200	142	342	
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	12.0
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.80)	..	..	..	..	9.6
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	11.6
INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of infants under one year of age.)			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	4 (2)	1 (1)	5 (3)
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	4 (2)	1 (1)	5 (3)
(Deaths of infants under four weeks and under one week of age are shown in brackets.)					
Infant mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	9.8
Infant mortality rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	22.0
Neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	5.8
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	5.8
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	..	..	..	13.5
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	10.1
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	3.5%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	54
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages) Respiratory—1 male	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	12
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	8
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	1

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES ..

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
*BIRTH RATE	15.4	16.3	16.8	18.0	18.0	18.1
*DEATH RATE	12.6	11.8	12.7	11.3	11.4	12.0
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	30.5	19.8	12.8	21.7	19.5	9.8
	(13)	(9)	(6)	(11)	(10)	(5)

* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

							Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	7
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—	6
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	—	9
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	2	9
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	16
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	12	36
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	20	62
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	97	95	192
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	142	342

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“ The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951 ” provided for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. Hoyle continues as Senior Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Cocks and Mr. Allston.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examination in cases of infectious disease.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now shared between the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the Cambridgeshire County Council; the former having the use of eighty beds for the chronic sick, the latter 95 beds for use under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of ‘ Food Poisoning ’ (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include ‘ carriers ’ of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Annual case incidence and deaths, 1949-59

DISEASE	YEARS											
	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	TOTAL	1959
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	341	30	522	116	676	13	203	350	74	370	2,695	854
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	130	64	181	105	61	129	58	86	215	7	1,036	38
Deaths	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1959

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases notified had increased further during the year from 61 to 98. The cases were sporadic throughout the year and no specific epidemic was noted. These figures give, however, an indication of the extent of streptococcal infection in the area, and as such are a very useful guide.

WHOOPING COUGH

An increase of cases from 7 to 38 in the latter half of the year occurred.

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

MEASLES

The great number of cases, i.e. 854, represented locally the national measles epidemic which continued well into the third quarter of the year. Although no fatalities occurred, the high incidence of complication—mainly respiratory—made one wonder whether the measles child deserves more careful care than it has been having during recent years.

DYSENTERY

These cases were down from 15 to 10 and occurred in the first and fourth quarters only. Seven cases were at Orwell. All cases were caused by shigella sonnei and were generally mild.

FOOD POISONING

The number of cases notified fell from 22 to 6. All were sporadic cases. Five cases were caused by salmonella typhi-murium and in one family outbreak the organism was recovered from the family's domestic chickens and dog. One further case was caused by salmonella anatum, a relatively uncommon strain.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1959

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
Under 1 year	—	4	—	—	10	—	—	14
1 year—	3	1	—	—	58	—	—	62
2 years—	1	1	—	—	70	—	—	72
3 years—	8	3	—	—	65	—	—	76
4 years—	10	1	—	—	72	1	—	84
5—9 years	70	24	—	—	449	6	—	549
10—14 years	6	2	—	—	99	2	—	109
15—24 years	—	1	—	—	16	—	—	17
25 and over	—	1	—	—	15	1	—	17
Totals	98	38	—	—	854	10	—	1000
1958 Totals	61	7	2	—	370	15	—	455

Age in years	Acute Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Under 5 years	2	—	—	1	—	3
5—14 years	1	—	1	1	—	3
15—44 years	4	1	—	—	2	7
45—64 years	2	—	—	4	—	6
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	1	1	6	2	19
1958 Totals	13	—	—	22	—	37

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year three male respiratory cases were notified for the first time. Six respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case previously notified elsewhere were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year there were six fewer respiratory cases and four fewer non-respiratory cases on the register.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Total Male	Total Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	44	26	4	6	48	32
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	3	—	—	—	3	—
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations:— (a) Transferred from other Districts (b) From Death Returns	1	5	—	1	1	6
1	—	—	—	—	—	1
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	11	5	1	4	12	9
6. Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	38	26	3	3	41	29

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.59

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0—15	3	1	—	—	3	1	4
15—25	5	—	7	1	12	1	13
25—35	5	—	5	1	10	1	11
35—45	13	2	7	—	20	2	22
45—55	6	—	4	—	10	—	10
55—65	4	—	2	—	6	—	6
65 and over	2	—	1	1	3	1	4
TOTALS	38	3	26	3	64	6	70

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47

No action was needed under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

No action was required under this section.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED										3,361
Complaints Investigated										152
General re-inspections										67
Housing:										
General Inspections										129
Re-inspections										239
Infectious Diseases:										
General Investigations										187
Number of Premises Disinfected										7
Verminous Premises and Persons:										
Premises Disinfested										Nil
Water Supply:										
Inspections and Investigations										30
Visits re. Water Sampling										119
Visits re. Chlorination Tests										6
Milk and Dairies:										
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores										Nil
Milk Distributors										3
Visits re. Milk Sampling										4
Food and Drugs Act:										
Inspection of Food										7
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses										751
Bakehouses										5
Catering Establishments										13
Ice-Cream Premises										17
Other Food Premises										51
Public Houses										22
Food Conveying Vehicles										3
Shops Act Inspections										Nil
Factories Act:										
Inspections										24
Inspections re. Means of Fire Escape										11
Pet Shops										
Moveable Dwellings										87
Public Cleansing, including Depot Visits										323
Drainage										579
Sewage Disposal										44
Petroleum Storage Regulations										31
Miscellaneous Visits										104

HOUSING

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
Houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action	156

Proceedings under Housing Act 1957

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..	..	..	..	..	3
Houses demolished due to formal action:					
(a) By owners ..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Houses demolished as a result of informal action ..	..	..	..	..	2
Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Section 17) ..	..	..	..	..	7
Undertakings in respect of houses represented as unfit (Section 16):					
(a) Undertakings given by owners to make fit ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Undertakings given by owners not to use for human habitation ..	..	..	..	..	1
Buildings in respect of part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 18) ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Houses made fit and Closing Orders or Undertakings cancelled ..	..	..	..	..	5
New cases of overcrowding ..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Overcrowding cases abated ..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Housing progress during the year ending 31.3.60

Bungalows erected by the Council	12
Houses erected by the Council	21
Dwellings erected by private enterprise	86
Total number of dwellings erected by the Council since 1945	1,686

The clearance of unfit dwellings has been slow and although it is somewhat related to the rate of new house building, greater use might be made of the 'casual vacancies' which occur during the year. Seventeen houses have been closed or demolished and a further 156 have been repaired. This latter figure does not include 5 dwellings made fit after formal closure, and improved dwellings as a result of improvement grant approvals. The Architect reports that 49 Standard Grants have been approved and 35 Discretionary Grants. The number of hutments still used as dwellings is now 25, two less than the previous year. The lease in respect of the two sites at Fowlmere and Litlington expires in December 1961 and arrangements are being made to rehouse the 20 families on these sites.

Moveable Dwellings

The Public Health department was requested to complete a Questionnaire on residential caravans in use in the district and return it to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. The information was for use in connexion with the investigation into the whole question of caravans by the Committee headed by Sir Arton Wilson. There is a total of 112 caravans on 52 sites within the rural district. It has been obvious for some time that caravans have come to stay, as a cheap form of dwelling, but at best they are a substandard form of dwelling compared with a modern house. There is need for a more comprehensive control of their use.

Rent Act

Action taken under the Rent Act 1957 has been of a minor nature and two Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

WATER SUPPLIES

Apart from works of water supply in connexion with the completion of the Comprehensive Scheme, a small extension of 3" dia. water main was laid at Kneeshworth to afford a supply to 13 premises which previously depended on supplies from unfit shallow wells.

Byelaws made under Section 18 of the Water Act 1945 were approved and came into operation on September 1st. These were designed to prevent pollution of three Council bore-holes situated in the chalk areas, by restricting certain drainage works, the keeping of animals and certain other agricultural activities, etc., within a defined radius of the bore-holes.

As will be seen from the Table, the results of chemical and bacteriological examination of samples from water supplied by the Council were of a very high standard. As a safeguard against the possible unlikely occurrence of contamination, all waters are chlorinated. The three samples which showed slight departure from the usual high standard of purity, were due to a local main disturbance.

When the opportunity has occurred the public health inspectors have sought to get properties connected to the newly laid water mains. In most cases this is effected without recourse to formal notices. The Council acted in default of one owner and laid on a water supply to a dwelling and recovered the cost incurred.

RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped Supplies	84	3
Private Supplies	8	23

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Examination	Linton Bore Chalk Water	Sawston Bore Chalk Water	Croydon Bore Lower Greensand Water (After iron removal)	Fowlmere Dottrell Hall Bore Chalk Water	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board Lower Greensand Water (After iron removal)	Saffron Walden R.D.C. Chalk Water
Physical Characteristics ..	Good	Good	Good	Very slight deposit otherwise good	Very slight deposit faintly turbid, odourless	Good
Reaction (pH value) ..	7.2	7.1	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.2
Parts per 100,000						
Chloride	1.9	2.3	3.00	2.2	7.3	1.7
Ammonia (free and saline) ..	0.0040	0.0020	0.0708	0.0010	0.0656	Absent
Ammonia (albuminoid) ..	0.0004	0.0012	0.0008	0.0004	0.0004	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.0287	0.0320	0.0198	0.0223	0.0225	0.0228
Nitrates (Expressed as Nitrogen)	0.75	0.65	Absent	0.75	Absent	0.55
Nitrites	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Poisonous Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Total Hardness	25.0	27.9	15.9	23.8	21.3	26.8
Microscopical Examination of deposit	None	None	None	Mainly mineral matter	Mainly mineral matter	None
Bacteriological Examination						
Coliform organisms in 100 mls	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 37°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 21°C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Particulars of Population and Numbers of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:—

Parish	Acreage	Population Census 1951	Number of dwellings (Rate Books) as at 31/3/60	Number of dwellings supplied as at 31/3/60	Source of Water Supply and quantity pumped 31/3/60
Sawston	1,898	2,133	1,038	1,024	Sawston bore (Chalk water) 34,070,000 gallons per year
Balsham	4,550	662	248	238	
Bartlow	377	73	27	26	
Carlton	2,415	266	65	53	
Castle Camps	3,184	509	193	180	
Great Abington	1,588	503	186	185	
Hildersham	1,511	148	65	53	
Horseheath	1,922	328	135	126	
Linton	3,817	1,608	646	619	
Little Abington	1,309	280	110	93	
Shudy Camps	2,362	240	93	91	
Weston Colville	3,235	334	131	112	
West Wickham	2,931	327	121	112	
West Wrating	3,543	424	143	130	
Abington Pigotts	1,237	142	43	41	
Arrington	1,407	648	123	122	
Babraham	2,387	226	117	—	
Barrington	2,282	497	201	175	
Bassingbourn	3,204	2,554	637 (184)	551	
Croydon	2,734	223	78	74	
Duxford	3,239	1,469	358	256	
Fowlmere	2,272	769	184	135	
Foxton	1,752	567	225	181	
Gamlingay	4,460	1,575	570	492	
Guilden Morden	2,599	552	213	189	
Hatley	2,200	150	54	51	
Hinxton	1,564	274	101	63	
Ickleton	2,700	613	226	98	
Kneesworth	879	133	34	17	
Litlington	2,172	778	222	193	
Little Gransden	1,920	280	87	87	
Longstowe	1,544	240	67	60	
Melbourn	4,480	1,408	626	504	
Meldreth	2,513	654	309	281	
Orwell	2,083	525	214	210	
Pampisford	1,607	340	108	61	
Shepreth	1,318	438	177	138	
Shingay cum Wendy	1,791	119	48	52	
Steeple Morden	3,846	642	243	181	
Tadlow	1,743	107	34	27	
Thriplow	2,501	386	247 (110)	58	
Whaddon	1,515	196	136 (58)	129	
Wimpole	2,468	239	67	52	
Whittlesford	1,976	809	336 (31)	171	
Great Eversden	1,400	175	62	57	
Kingston	1,907	158	58	54	
Little Eversden	790	236	100	95	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board (Lower greensand water) 8,383,000 gallons per year.
Great Chishill	2,542	332	120	117	
Heydon	1,425	151	60	56	
Little Chishill	1,216	82	32	21	Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Chalk water) 5,116,000 gallons per year.

Figures in brackets are included in the main figure and represent R.A.F. dwellings.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work in connexion with Stage II of the Gamlingay sewerage scheme is proceeding satisfactorily and tenders have been invited for the sewerage of Meldreth Parish. In June the Council received approval from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for the Sawston Sewerage Scheme. This, of all schemes, is one of paramount importance, as the need for an efficient sewer and sewage works in this growing parish is daily emphasized.

The Council has adopted a vigorous policy towards village sewerage schemes, and a list of priority village schemes has been approved. Visits and inspections relative to the supervision of private drainage work by the public health inspectors number 579.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

A fortnightly collection of domestic refuse was commenced in October throughout the district. Hitherto 55.6% of properties in the rural district had a four-weekly collection, and the remainder a fortnightly collection. To accomplish this increased frequency, a further refuse collection vehicle was put into service.

Refuse is tipped and covered over in a controlled manner and a bulldozer is employed from time to time on this work. The four refuse tips in operation are kept free from infestation by systematic treatment with insecticides. Rat destruction is also a matter of routine.

Collection and Disposal Statistics for Year ending 31.3.60

Estimated number of clearances from properties ..	..	..	..	..	..	224,620
Number of loads ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,001
Estimated tonnage ..	..	..	..	..	..	4,130
Total mileage travelled ..	..	..	..	..	..	27,830

Litter-Bins

The Council has authorised the positioning of litter-bins in parishes where it is considered necessary.

Cesspool Emptying Service

This service is much sought after and has worked to capacity throughout the year. One suction tanker is employed and is operated by two workmen. The increasing number of orders received in respect of both private and Council properties has necessitated calling in a private firm to assist in clearing some Council sewage plants.

The charges remain the same as when the scheme was inaugurated in 1955, at 35/- per first load, with subsequent loads at 15/- for private premises, and £2 and £1 respectively for business premises.

The following indicates the year's work:

Private Work Cesspools	Loads	Council Work Cesspools	Loads	Total Mileage
450	573	230	703	12,989

Nightsoil Collection

This is a service for which there is no great call. A contractor employed by the Council operates a weekly service in the built-up area of one of the larger villages.

Pest Destruction

Rat destruction on the Council's refuse tips is efficiently dealt with by a firm of private contractors. Other Council properties such as sewers and sewage works are kept free from infestation as a matter of routine by a Council employee who has some training in rat destruction methods. Few complaints of infested private properties have been received and complainants are usually advised on methods of rat destruction, or put in touch with disinfestation firms. There have been no requests to the department for the disinfestation of verminous premises or articles, during the year.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

A few cases of dysentery and food poisoning occurred during the year and as usual detailed investigations were made. In the control of intestinal infections 42 faecal specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination.

It is interesting to note that in one case of a family suffering from food poisoning, domestic poultry and a pet dog were found to be carriers of the food poisoning bacteria. The dog was treated at a veterinary clinic and eventually declared free from infection.

Scarlet fever accounted for the majority of cases of infectious disease in which the department was concerned and 187 visits and inspections in the general control of infection are recorded.

Seven premises and articles were disinfected.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Action under the Clean Air Act 1956 has been limited due to staffing difficulties. No routine observations of smoke emissions have been taken. The "prior approval" of two furnace installations were given after consultation with the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service. One notice of "intention to install" a furnace was received.

Two factories in the district are "scheduled processes" under the Alkali Etc. Works Regulation Act, and are registrable as such by the Ministry.

As far as the Clean Air Act applies in these two cases, the control of smoke and fumes, etc., is a matter for the Alkali Inspectorate.

EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND CONTROL OF FOOD PREMISES

Slaughter of Animals—Meat Inspection

The departure, towards the year's end, from the 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered, was unfortunate but necessary owing to staffing difficulties, combined with a heavy increased kill.

The three privately owned slaughter houses are widely separated and adequate coverage involved much time and travelling. 751 visits for meat inspection purposes are recorded.

One significant factor, doubtless resulting from the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme, was the low percentage of tuberculosis found in beef carcasses. This seems to indicate that the bulk of the reactor cattle has now been slaughtered.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was over 40,000 (93% inspected) and the meat inspection grant obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food was approximately £255.

Meat declared unfit at the three slaughter houses, amounted to 13 tons 2 cwt.

The Slaughter Houses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958, came into force on January 1st, 1959. They set the standard to which all slaughter houses will eventually have to conform and require *inter alia* the use of stunning pens in slaughter houses. Local authorities are given twelve months from November 2nd to submit to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, their slaughter-houses' report on the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughtering facilities.

There is no public slaughter house in the rural district.

PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AT THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED SLAUGHTERHOUSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1959

(The figures in brackets are the annual figures for the year 1958)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	864 (1,126)	55 (87)	29 (71)	5,677 (4,395)	33,377 (32,955)	—
Number inspected 93.0%	864	55	29	5,240	31,061	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	2	15	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	248	16	2	150	2,307	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.0% (15.9%)	29.0% (9.2%)	6.9% (—)	2.9% (5.3%)	7.5% (8.1%)	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	2	—	—	979	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	0.69% (4.9%)	3.6% (11.5%)	—	—	3.15% (4.2%)	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15 (23)	1 (2)	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	15 (23)	1 (2)	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS CONDEMNED—ALL DISEASES*						
Heads	22	2	1	—	975	—
Lungs (Sets)	8	3	2	4	1,543	—
Hearts	2	1	1	4	358	—
Livers (Whole or part)	238	14	—	142	581	—
Spleens	—	1	—	—	4	—
Diaphragms	1	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	—	2	—	—	142	—
Stomachs	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mesenteries	1	1	—	—	5	—
Other parts	215 lbs	6 lbs.	—	3 lbs.	432 lbs.	—

*These figures do not include instances where whole carcasses and all organs were condemned.

Milk Supply

The district is already a specified area—one in which only pasteurised, sterilized and tuberculin tested milk may be sold—and from the 1st October became an “Attested Area” under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme.

The new Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 came into force in March and apart from stream-lining administration, modified certain aspects of the previous Regulations in the light of present day practices.

No sampling of milk from dairy herds was possible during the year and only four samples of school milk were obtained. These passed the prescribed tests.

The following show the number of licences in force permitting the sale of designated milk by retailers:

Dealers Licences

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Sterilized milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

Apart from a few producer retailers in the area the main supply of bottled milk is from dairies situated outside the district. There are no pasteurising plants in the district and the records show two premises registered as dairies and sixteen registered distributors.

Ice Cream

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1959 came into force in April. Their main import is that sterilization is now permitted as a process alternative to pasteurisation, and that water ices, whether containing milk solids or not, that are mixed before freezing and are of a particular acidity, are exempted from heat treatment.

There are 114 retailers registered for the sale of ice cream and 17 visits to their premises have been recorded.

Five samples of pre-packed ice cream were submitted to the methylene blue test—a test for hygienic purity—and passed.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Food Shops, Cafes, Factory Canteens and Food Conveying Vehicles

The routine inspection of premises where food is stored, sold, handled or prepared is of great importance if a high standard of hygiene is to be maintained. It is during these inspections that much useful advice can be given, advice which may not otherwise be sought.

Codes of Practice were published jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, covering hygiene in the retail meat trade and in connection with the transport of meat. Whilst not having the force of law, these Codes give guidance and make suggestions, thus helping the trade to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The public health department sent copies to all persons concerned with this aspect of food hygiene.

There are over 330 premises in the rural district to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply, but records show that only 111 visits have been made to these establishments and vehicles.

Works of improvement were completed at 22 premises as follows:

Sanitary Accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wash hand basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Provision of sinks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drainage systems improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Working surfaces—tables, etc., improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Structural repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Premises redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Personal cleanliness improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Name and address on food vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous Improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

In addition one new transport cafe has replaced one of poor design, and a new bakehouse has been constructed—also in place of an older type premises.

Food Premises (Registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955)

Premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and the manufacture of certain cooked or preserved food, require special registration. The following are the premises so registered:

Fish Frying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sale of Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Manufacture of Sausages and other foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13

Included in the above are 12 premises registered during the year for the sale of ice cream and 2 for the manufacture of sausages and other preserved foods.

Unfit Foods

Food stocks in shops and cafes, etc., are not normally inspected for fitness as a matter of routine. The following foods were found to be unfit after receipt of complaints and in the main were blown and damaged canned food. No formal seizure of unsound food was necessary.

24 lbs. Assorted canned Meats

14 lbs. Filleted Cod Fish.

SHOPS ACT 1950

The administration of this Act is divided between the County Council and the District Council. The latter is responsible for matters in connexion with heating, ventilating and sanitary accommodation. No complaints have been received during the year and no specific visits made under the Act. However, when visiting food shops (and this class of premises is in the majority) under the Food and Drugs Act, attention is given to the requirements of the Shops Act.

FACTORIES' ACT 1937-1959

As will be seen from the Table, the number of factories inspected has been unavoidably low, although it is agreed that in factories employing mechanical power the Council's public health responsibilities under the Act are limited to that of supervision of sanitary accommodation.

However, as the public health inspectors have duties in connexion with petroleum storage and fire escape, the routine inspection of factories affords an opportunity for this further supervision.

In conjunction with the County Fire Officer, several joint inspections of factories for Adequacy of Fire Escape were made. One factory required considerable structural improvement before the necessary Certificate could be issued. One new Certificate has been issued and three existing Certificates were amended after improvement of factory escapes.

There are 46 Outworkers on the register, all engaged on work of making or completing wearing apparel. No case of outwork being carried out in unhealthy conditions was found.

Fourteen Certificates of Wholesomeness of Private Water Supplies under Section 41 are in force, but none have been issued during the year.

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	24	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	—	—	—
Total	85	24	1	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—	—

Knackers' Yards

There are no factories registered as Knackers' Yards, although there are two factories associated with fat melting, bone grinding and the conversion of dead animals and unfit meat into animal foods and fertilizers.

Difficulty has been experienced in adequately controlling this type of manufactory and an application was made to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for urban powers under Section 107-108 Public Health Act 1936. At the time of reporting the Minister has empowered the Council under Section 107 to control the establishment and extension of "offensive trades" in the parish of Sawston, and has declared Section 108 to be in force in the parishes of Sawston, Pampisford, and Duxford. This latter power permits the Council to make byelaws to control the operation of offensive trades.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Licences issued to slaughtermen under the Act are required to state the types of slaughtering instruments permitted and the kinds of animals which may be slaughtered.

Twenty-two slaughtermen hold licences for the current year. These licences permit the slaughtermen to operate anywhere in England and Wales providing the licence does not include for the slaughter of horses. Such permission restricts the licences to the area of the Issuing Authority. It might be fitting to say that no horses are slaughtered in the district for human consumption.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There are no licences in force under the Act, permitting the sale of pet animals.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Sixteen new installations for the underground storage of petroleum spirit have been approved and licensed. The installations have been in accordance with the Model Code and all tanks have been air tested. One new can store was constructed and duly licensed for storage. No routine re-inspections of installations have been made due to pressure of other duties.

In all 31 visits to storage establishments are recorded. No contravention of the Act or Regulations was found.

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